

**Case 3522****PALICINAE Burr, 1910 (Dermaptera, SPONGIPHORIDAE): proposed emendation of the current spelling to PALEXINAE to remove homonymy with PALICIDAE Bouvier, 1898 (Crustacea, Decapoda)**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application, under Articles 29 and 55 of the Code, is to remove the homonymy between the earwig family-group name PALICINAE Burr, 1910 (Dermaptera, SPONGIPHORIDAE) and the crustacean family-group name PALICIDAE Bouvier, 1898 (Crustacea, Decapoda, Brachyura). It is proposed that the spelling of the family-group name PALICINAE (based on the generic name *Palex* Burr, 1910) be emended to give PALEXINAE, while leaving the crustacean name PALICIDAE (based on the type genus name *Palicus* Philippi, 1838) unaltered.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Dermaptera; Decapoda; Brachyura; SPONGIPHORIDAE; PALICIDAE; PALICINAE; Australasia.

1. The genus *Platylabia* was established by Dohrn (1867, p. 347) based on the description of four species: *Platylabia major* Dohrn, 1867, *Platylabia thoracica* Dohrn, 1867, the latter currently included in the genus *Chaetospania* Karsch, 1886, and the two species *Platylabia dimidiata* Dohrn, 1867 and *Platylabia guineensis* Dohrn, 1867, both synonymised with *Paralabella curvicauda* (Motchulsky, 1863) by Burr (1911, p. 56). Subsequently a further two species were described in the genus *Platylabia*: Dubrony (1879, p. 372) described *Platylabia gestroi*, currently included in the genus *Chaetospania* Karsch, 1886 (Srivastava, 1985, p. 222), and De Bormans (1900, p. 459) described *Platylabia sparattoides*.

2. Later, Burr (1910, p. 68) described the new monotypic genus *Palex* for the species *Platylabia sparattoides* (originally fixed as the type species by monotypy), and the new subfamily PALICINAE Burr, 1910 with *Palex* designated as the type genus. One year later, Burr (1911, p. 43) considered *Palex sparattoides* Burr, 1910 to be synonymous with *Platylabia major* Dohrn, 1867, and accordingly he synonymised the genus *Palex* Burr, 1910 with the genus *Platylabia* Dohrn, 1867, and proposed a new monotypic subfamily PLATYLABIINAE for the genus *Platylabia*. The subfamily name PLATYLABIINAE Burr, 1911 has been used for a long time (e.g. Popham & Brindle, 1966; Srivastava, 1981; Steinmann, 1989a, b), although, according to the Principle of Priority (Article 23.1 of the Code), PLATYLABIINAE Burr, 1911 is a junior synonym of PALICINAE Burr, 1910, as recently pointed out by Engel & Haas (2007, p. 10); thus, PALICINAE is the valid name under Article 23.1 of the Code. However, according to Article 29.1, PALICINAE has the same grammatical stem (*Palic-*) as the crustacean family name PALICIDAE Bouvier, 1898 (based on the type genus *Palicus* Philippi, 1838; Brachyura). Therefore, PALICINAE (Dermaptera, SPONGIPHORIDAE) and PALICIDAE (CRUSTACEA, DECAPODA) are homonyms in the family-group category (Article 55.3 of the Code) and the case should

be referred to the Commission for a ruling to remove homonymy. It is proposed that the dermapteran family-group name PALICINAE be emended to PALEXINAE (as the stem of the generic name is *Palex*-), leaving the crustacean name PALICIDAE unaltered.

3. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to rule that for the purposes of Article 29 of the Code the stem of the generic name *Palex* Burr, 1910 is *Palex*-;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) PALEXINAE Burr, 1910, type genus *Palex* Burr, 1910, spelling emended by the ruling in (1) above;
  - (b) PALICIDAE Bouvier, 1898, type genus *Palicus* Philippi, 1838 (Crustacea, Decapoda);
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology the name PALICINAE Burr, 1910, spelling emended to PALEXINAE, as ruled in (1) above (Dermaptera, SPONGIPHORIDAE).

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Acknowledgement of receipt of this application was published in BZN **67**: 119.

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., c/o Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).